

COMMUNITY RESOURCE ASSESSMENT (CRA)

There is mounting interest in human services and justice systems to align program and organizational efforts with evidence-based knowledge. The evidence-base knowledge informs approaches capable of producing outcomes. The evidence-based knowledge creates opportunities to improve prevention, intervention and treatment strategies to meet the variety of outcomes desired by systems serving children, families, and adults.

In order to take advantage of the evidence-based knowledge, communities and systems must create learning environments where the logic of the program/initiative is explicit and aligns approaches with outcomes. By mapping these connections, providers are able to explore the alignment of their work with evidence-based knowledge to identify ways of improving existing effort.

As systems engage in efforts to determine their value, they are generally confronted by several challenging realities:

- evidence-based programs are expensive and don't always address the needs of the community;
- traditional practices are well institutionalized and difficult to change;
- moving towards an evidence-based ideal requires new knowledge and skills; and
- very little is known through research about the effectiveness of traditional practices.

The **Community Resource Assessment (CRA)** is a tool that systems can use to clarify how the work being done helps produce outcomes. The CRA asks a series of questions to elicit the logic of programming efforts and helps link these findings with intended outcomes.

In doing so, the CRA produces a logical map that decision makers may use to better understand and evaluate practices in the community. The CRA asks compelling questions about the efficacy of a program/initiative, the infrastructure requirements to run and sustain the program/initiative and how the effort is integrated with others in the community. The resulting components are the foundation for gauging the potential of the program successfully achieving targeted outcomes.

Name of Organization:

Contact Person:

Contact Email:

Contact Phone #:

Title of the Initiative:

Current funding level:

Current source of funding:

Geographic location(s) of the services provided:

Total numbers served in the previous year:

Which disciplines are active partners in implementing this approach? Please identify specific partner agencies by name.

☐ Community Groups

Identify the specific partner organization(s)

☐ Child Advocacy Centers

Identify the specific partner organization(s)

☐ Courts and Supervision

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

☐ Environmental Health

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

☐ Families/Family Advocates

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

☐ GAL

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

☐ Law Enforcement

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

☐ Medical

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

☐ Parole

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

☐ Probation

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

___ Public Health

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

___ Prevention

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

___ Prosecution and Criminal Defense

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

___ Social Services

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

___ Treatment (substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence)

Identify the specific partner organization(s):

Brief Program Description (limit to 150 words):

COMMUNITY RESOURCE ASSESSMENT (CRA)

Roles & Responsibilities

- **What do you do?**
 - What mandates guide your program?
 - What expectations do others hold of your program?

Assessed Need & Nature of the Problem

- **Who do you serve and what do they need?**
 - What data did you use to identify the need and determine if this program will meet your need?
 - What population does your program serve and what are their needs?
 - What are the needs of the other professions that are involved?
 - What is the demand for your program or initiative?

Outcomes—Service Population and Community Partnership

- **What do you want to happen?**
 - What are your short term goals?
 - What are your long term goals?
 - How will you measure progress toward your goals?

Practices and Skill Requirements

- **What do you need to do in order to reach your goals?**
 - What services do you offer and why were those services chosen?
 - How will your services and activities lead to the outcomes you desire?
 - How will you measure progress toward your goals?

Partnership Network

- **Who do you need to work with in order to make your program successful?**
 - How is your program integrated with outside partners (sharing of locations, sharing of staff, referrals, sharing of information)?
- What role do these partners play?

Organizational Infrastructure

- **What do you need to do to get the job done?**
 - How is the program supported financially?
 - What sort of planning or advisory council guides the program?
 - What staffing (both numbers and skills/training) are needed?
 - What facilities and equipment are needed?

Guiding Effective Principals